

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-16. (canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing ceramic green compacts for ceramic components, the method comprising:

a) preparing a dispersing agent solution by homogenizing one or more dispersing agents in combination with an organic acid in a solvent mixture to provide a dispersing agent solution;

b) preparing a binder solution by homogenizing the solvent mixture from step a), at least one acrylatemethacrylate copolymers as the binder and at least one softener;

c) preparing a first dispersion by homogenizing a ceramic powder and the dispersing agent solution, and subsequent deagglomeration;

d) preparing a second dispersion by homogenizing the first dispersion and the binder solution; and

e) removing air and highly volatile solvent components from the second dispersion.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein polymeric dispersing agents having acid groups are used as the dispersing agents.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein oxa acids are used as the organic acid.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the oxa acids are selected from the group ~~made up~~ consisting of 3,6-dioxaheptanoic acid, 3,6,9-trioxadecanoic acid, 3,6,9-trioxaundecanedioic acid ~~[[or]]~~ and polyglycol diacid.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the solvent mixture is selected from the group ~~made up~~ consisting of alcohols, esters and ketones, the solvent mixture containing at least one alcohol.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the solvent mixture is selected from the group ~~made up~~ consisting of ethanol, isopropanol, n-propanol, n-butanol, ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, 1-methoxy-2-propyl acetate and methylethyl ketone.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein a thermal decomposition of a binder polymer occurs by depolymerization.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the softener that is used is an ester-based, phthalate-free softener.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the softener is an ester of citric acid or adipic acid.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the softener is selected from the group ~~made up~~ consisting of tributyl citrate, triethyl citrate, acetyltributyl citrate, bis-2l-ethylhexyl adipate and isononyl adipate.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein a ceramic powder that is used includes a PZT powder.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the ceramic powder and the dispersing agent solution are homogenized at a proportion between 70:30 to 90:10 by weight, depending on the concentration of the binder solution.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the ceramic powder and the dispersing agent solution are homogenized at a proportion between 70:30 to 85:15 by weight, depending on the concentration of the binder solution.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the first dispersion and the binder solution are homogenized at a proportion between 70:30 to 90:10 by weight, depending on the concentration of the binder solution.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the first dispersion and the binder solution are homogenized at a proportion between 70:30 to 80:20 by weight, depending on the concentration of the binder solution.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the removing of air and the highly volatile solvent components from the second dispersion takes place simultaneously, with the aid of a vacuum pump.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein a proportion of the binder to the softener is in a range of 55:45 and 75:25.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein a proportion of the binder to the softener is in a range of 55:45 and 67:33.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the ceramic components are multilayer assemblies.

36. (Previously Presented) A piezo-multilayer actor comprising:
ceramic green compacts, the ceramic green compacts being formed by performing the following:

a) preparing a dispersing agent solution by homogenizing one or more dispersing agents in combination with an organic acid in a solvent mixture to provide a dispersing agent solution;

b) preparing a binder solution by homogenizing the solvent mixture from step a), at least one acrylatemethacrylate copolymers as the binder and at least one softener;

c) preparing a first dispersion by homogenizing a ceramic powder and the dispersing agent solution, and subsequent deagglomeration;

d) preparing a second dispersion by homogenizing the first dispersion and the binder solution; and

e) removing air and highly volatile solvent components from the second dispersion